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UNCLAS ANKARA 000023

SIPDIS

STATE FOR E, EB/CBED, EUR/SE AND NEA/NGA
TREASURY FOR OASIA - JLEICHTER AND MMILLS
DEPT PLEASE PASS USTR FOR CNOVELLI/LERRION
FAS FOR ITP/THORBURN
USDOC FOR ITA/MAC/DDEFALCO
DEPT PASS OPIC - BRIAN TREADWELL
DEPT PASS EXIMBANK - RAY ELLIS

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SUBJECT: MFA U/S Ziyal Letter to U/S Larson on EPC

1. MFA transmitted a letter from Undersecretary Ziyal to U/S Larson via diplomatic note on the Economic Partnership Commission. In the letter, Ziyal affirms the importance of the economic reform program, addressing investment issues, moving forward on a Turkey Qualifying Industrial Zone, and cooperating in Iraq reconstruction. Ziyal suggests that some of these issues may be pursued further during PM Erdogan's January visit to Washington. The letter was apparently drafted prior to the Embassy's delivery of Washington's revised EPC action plan to MFA (septel). Embassy has faxed a copy of the dipnote to EUR/SE

2. Begin Text of Ziyal-Larson Letter:

Ankara, December 29, 2003

Dear Alan,

The Economic Partnership Commission (EPC) meeting indeed provided us with the opportunity to discuss issues pertinent to our mutual economic activities. Once again, I would like to thank you for your valuable contribution to the overall constructive spirit of the talks we had, which led to its success, as well as for your kind hospitality.

We are looking forward to receiving your comments on the EPC Action Item checklist. Needless to say, keeping track of the ongoing economic reform program, improvement of the investment climate in Turkey and addressing certain concerns of the U.S. investors will continue to be the priority agenda items to be followed by the Turkish side with due diligence in the days ahead.

The establishment of QIZs in Turkey, which has been a recurrent theme since the first EPC meeting, still remains to be a pending issue. We, therefore, welcome your renewed efforts in this respect. We are looking forward to the results of this new initiative and hope that Turkey's participation in the QIZ program would be realized to the satisfaction of both of our countries.

The prospects in enhancing the role for Turkish firms in rebuilding Iraq augurs well and in fact, is a vital component of our regional cooperation perspective. We trust that the conferences to be held by the U.S. Department of Commerce in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir in January next year will be useful to this end.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to refer to the upcoming visit of our Prime Minister in late January 2004 to the United States. We hope that the visit will yield successful results including some of the issues that we follow up within the context of the EPC.

I look forward to working with you to follow up on the EPC action item plan in the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Ugur Ziyal
Ambassador

P.S. Seasons Greetings and all the best for the New
Year.
End Text.
Edelman